

Head of Trainmen Says Action by Congress Can Avert Strike

**ACT MUST BE PASSED
BY SATURDAY NIGHT**

Rate Increases Yielding
\$20,000,000 Annually Or

**\$20,000,000 Annually Or-
dered Suspended.**

TRAINMEN ARE FIRM IN DECISION TO QUIT

Strong Pressure Is Being Brought by Gompers and Secretary Wilson.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—Enactment of a law fixing an eight hour day as the present ten hour wage for train men engaged in interstate commerce, accomplished before Saturday midnight, will avert the railroad strike according to an unequivocal state

ment to-night by W. G. Lee, head of the Teamsters' Brotherhood. Heads of the other railroad employees' organizations also were obviously pleased with the bill after giving the draft their careful study.

The bill must become law before Saturday midnight, it is pointed out because it will take twenty-four hours to cancel the strike order sent out last Sunday, which will go into effect automatically on Monday unless stopped.

Emergency Expendent Only.
But to-night no definite conclusion had been reached, and it seemed probable that if any measure were passed it would

Lee's statement on the effect the passage of the eight hour bill would have follows:

"Enactment into law of the President's eight hour day bill as now drawn, guaranteeing the present ten hour day wage, will be regarded as a satisfactory

"In order to prevent a strike, however, this bill must become a law before Saturday night. It will require twenty-four hours for us to cancel our strike order sent out last Sunday, which will automatically go into effect next Monday unless stopped by a code message from Washington. Four brotherhood heads indicating that a satisfactory settlement has been reached.

"The minute the bill becomes a law, if such a thing should transpire before next Saturday night—we will begin sending out the code message. Within that time allowance we can assure the country that not a man will leave his train on Monday at 7 A. M. Easter time, the hour now set for a strike.

Ready for Arbitration.

"The bill as now drawn contains

"Whether there will be a strike is no squarely up to Congress. If this bill is talked to death or prevented from passing both houses before Saturday night by oratory or other methods

delay responsibility for the strike order going into effect will rest not with the President but with Congress. It has plenty of time left in which to pass this bill."

Strong pressure will be brought to President Wilson on the brotherhood leaders to get them to move for a postponement of the date of the strike order for at least thirty days. The President will work through Secretary of Labor Wilson and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Wilson Programme Seems Doomed

At the end of a day of deliberation at informal conferences among the Congressional leaders, the conviction prevails that the President's legislative programme cannot be carried out as now stands.

The Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce announced, after Senate Committee hearings, that it will

On the floor of the Senate this afternoon, a tumultuous discussion, some Senators declared that Government ownership was

Rate Increases Suspended.
Proposed increases in transcontinent freight rates from the East to the mountain territory and from the Pacific coast to the East, which it was estimated

The commission suspended the rate until December 30, pending the investigation to determine the reasonableness of the rates.